

## **Bonner apartment complex first in state to use USDA Program**

By NICK SLOAN October 20, 2006

The City of Bonner Springs hosted the grand opening of the Bonner Highlands Apartments II on Tuesday. However, for those looking for a place to live, it's too late; all of them have been leased.

The Bonner Highlands is a multi-family housing complex comprised of three 3-story buildings, and the project featured two phases. Phase two consisted of a 36-unit project, so the complex now totals 84 individual units. The project is located at 13128 Kansas Ave.



The relationship between the city and Garrison Development, which managed the construction of the project, has been going for seven years. Phase I of the plan occurred at that time.

Ignore that "Now Leasing" sign hanging on the new Bonner Highlands Apartments II development in Bonner Springs. The day of the grand opening ceremony, developers announced that all units had been leased. NICK SLOAN/The Kansan

"the project was a long haul and required a lot of help," said Gary Hassenflu, president of Garrison Development.

Phase two of the project required assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

"Construction (costs) went up a lot," Hassenflu said. "It took Section 538 to make this happen."

The USDA Rural Development's Section 538 program provides financial assistance used for the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of multifamily housing in rural areas.

Bonner Highlands was the first project Section 538 was used with in the State of Kansas

"We highly recommend it," said Clausie Smith, mayor of Bonner Springs. "They have done a good job. We are pleased to see continued development on the project."

Hassenflu said the relationship between the two parties has been one of production.

"It's been a real pleasure working with the city," he said. "The mayor has always been supportive of economic development and the growth of housing. We are really happy to be a part of the Bonner Springs community and can offer affordable housing. With all the economic development that has happened here, there is a continued need for housing."

It was also announced that all apartments have been leased.

The city and construction firm were provided a \$1.45 million Agency Rural Rental Housing Loan. The ribbon cutting ceremony was followed by a brief reception outside the apartment complex.